

Randy Maas

2408 W. Rice Street, Sioux Falls, SD 57104

January 24, 2002

Renata Hesse - Trial Attorney
Antitrust Division
US Department of Justice
601 D Street NW - Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Ms. Hesse:

With the court's approval, our nation will be best served by the settlement agreement reached between the Department of Justice and Microsoft Corporation. The settlement resolves the issues which were found to be legitimate. It resolves an issue which has absorbed four years and many millions in taxes from the Justice Department.

While our nation has endured a recession, one of the strong points in our recovery has been the Microsoft Corporation which has shown great resiliency, even though its resources and attention have been split with the threats posed by the antitrust case. Microsoft has thrived in one of the most hostile industries because the entire company's energetic focus is on remaining the leader in software development. Their competitors are also very wealthy and they are equally as determined to replace Microsoft as the leader. Therefore, I am not surprised that half of the states in the original suit are still in the hunt to bring down Microsoft.

I am impressed with one of the gifts available in this settlement, which will target computers and information technologies resources for our nation's most poverty-stricken school districts. My home state will probably be rewarded with these computers since some of the nation's poorest counties are located in South Dakota. I have been an activist on social development issues, including my service as Executive Director of the S.D. Alzheimer's Association.

I support this settlement not only because it ends an action which has served its usefulness, but also because it benefits children who need the help. I appreciate your consideration of my letter.

Sincerely,


Randy Maas

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